



Los Angeles County AUDIT COMMITTEE

Louisa Ollague, Chair
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Lori Glasgow, Vice Chair
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Dorinne Jordan
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ADOPTED

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

December 14, 2010

13 DECEMBER 14, 2010

The Honorable Board of Supervisors
County of Los Angeles
383 Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration
500 West Temple Street
Los Angeles, California 90012

Sachi A. Hamai
SACHI A. HAMAI
EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Dear Supervisors:

SUNSET REVIEW FOR THE LOS ANGELES COUNTY PUBLIC HEALTH COMMISSION (ALL SUPERVISORIAL DISTRICTS) (3 VOTES)

SUBJECT

Request to extend the sunset review date for the Los Angeles County Public Health Commission.

IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT YOUR BOARD:

Approve introduction of ordinance extending the Los Angeles County Public Health Commission's sunset review date to December 1, 2014

PURPOSE/JUSTIFICATION OF RECOMMENDED ACTION

The Los Angeles County Public Health Commission (Commission) was created by the Board pursuant to Chapter 3.54 of the Los Angeles County Code. The Board approved the most recent sunset review extension on September 8, 2009, which expired on December 1, 2009.

The Commission studies, advises and recommends to the Board and the Director of Public Health on matters of public health under the jurisdiction of Los Angeles County, including those matters within cities in the County under the Department of Public Health's (DPH) jurisdiction. The Commission studies and reports on matters as directed by the Board or the Director of DPH.

During this review period the Commission accomplished the following:

- Participated on the DPH, Environmental Health Trans-Fat Ad-Hoc Commission to advise the public about the health dangers of foods high in trans-fat. As a result, DPH created the Voluntary Artificial Trans-Fat Reduction Program which recognizes eateries committed to providing healthier dining

choices.

- Advised DPH on its proposed sewage spill educational program, contributing to dramatic improvements in reporting sewage spills and public notification.
- Assisted DPH with communications to the Chief Executive Office (CEO) on the negative impact of transferring the Alcohol and Drug Programs Administration (ADPA) to the Department of Mental Health. The CEO recommended to the Board that the ADPA remain with DPH.
- Conducted a review and reported findings of site visits at public health centers to DPH in order to assess the quality and safety of services provided, and encouraged health centers to share their best practices.
- Recommended establishing a Joint Commission, consisting of nine County commissions related to health and other services for families and children, to encourage collaboration among commissions with common interests and responsibilities.

FISCAL IMPACT/FINANCING

Commissioners meet twice each month and receive a \$25 stipend for each meeting attended. In addition, Commissioners receive reimbursement for Commission-related travel expenses, such as transportation, meals and lodging. DPH provides the Commission with staff support. DPH indicated Commission expenditures totaled approximately \$121,500 for staff support, parking fees, and stipends for Fiscal Year 2008-09.

FACTS AND PROVISIONS/LEGAL REQUIREMENTS

The Commission has five members, one appointed by each Supervisor, representing the fields of medicine, education, business, a women's group and/or municipal government. From April 2007 to December 2009, the Commission met 44 times with an average attendance of three to four members (70%).

IMPACT ON CURRENT SERVICES (OR PROJECTS)

The Commission's objectives for the coming period are to:

- Continue to conduct site visits of public health centers to assess the quality and safety of services provided.
- Evaluate and advise on the timeliness of distributing and administering certain vaccines to the public.
- Work with the Mental Health Commission to understand and advise on public health issues in the County jails.
- Advise DPH on how to improve responses to public health issues based on a review of DPH's responses to H1N1 (swine flu).
- Continue to monitor the progress of reporting sewage spills and notification to the public.
- Advise the Board on the negative impact of possible reductions to DPH's budget, such as potential delays in investigating diseases and increased disease transmissions.
- Continue to participate on the Joint Commission, collaborating with commissions with common interests and responsibilities, to improve health and other services for families and children.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Louisa Ollague". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Louisa" written in a larger, more prominent script than the last name "Ollague".

LOUISA OLLAGUE

Chair

LO:tpk

Enclosures

c: Chief Executive Officer
County Counsel
Auditor-Controller
Chair, Los Angeles County
Public Health Commission



**COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES
DEPARTMENT OF AUDITOR-CONTROLLER**

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MARIA M. OMS
CHIEF DEPUTY

ASST. AUDITOR-CONTROLLERS

ROBERT A. DAVIS
JOHN NAIMO
JUDI E. THOMAS

September 27, 2010

TO: Audit Committee

FROM: Wendy L. Watanabe
Auditor-Controller

SUBJECT: **SUNSET REVIEW FOR THE LOS ANGELES COUNTY PUBLIC
HEALTH COMMISSION**

RECOMMENDATION

The Audit Committee recommend to the Board of Supervisors (Board) to extend the Los Angeles County Public Health Commission's sunset review date to December 1, 2014.

BACKGROUND

The Los Angeles County Public Health Commission (Commission) was created by the Board pursuant to Chapter 3.54 of the Los Angeles County Code. The Board approved the most recent sunset review extension in September 2009.

The Commission studies, advises and recommends to the Board and the Director of Public Health on matters of public health under the jurisdiction of Los Angeles County, including cities within the County under the Department of Public Health's (DPH) jurisdiction. The Commission studies and reports on matters as directed by the Board or the Director of DPH.

The Commission has five members, one appointed by each Supervisor, representing the fields of medicine, education, business, a women's group and/or municipal government. Commissioners meet twice each month and receive a \$25 stipend for each meeting attended, not to exceed two meetings per month. In addition, Commissioners receive reimbursement for Commission-related travel expenses, such as transportation, meals and lodging. The DPH provides the Commission with staff support. The DPH indicated Commission expenditures totaled approximately \$121,500 for staff support, parking fees, and stipends for fiscal year 2008-09.

JUSTIFICATION

From April 2007 to December 2009, the Commission met 44 times with an average attendance of 3.5 (70%) members.

During this review period, the Commission's accomplishments included:

- Participated on the Trans-Fat Commission to advise the public about the health dangers of foods high in trans-fat. As a result, the DPH created the Voluntary Artificial Trans-Fat Reduction Program to recognize eateries committed to providing healthier dining choices.
- Advised the DPH on its proposed sewage spill educational program, contributing to dramatic improvements in sewage spill reporting and public notification.
- Assisted the DPH Director in communicating to the Chief Executive Office (CEO) the negative impact of transferring the Alcohol and Drug Programs Administration (ADPA) to the Department of Mental Health. The CEO recommended to the Board that the ADPA remain with DPH.
- Conducted site visits of public health centers to assess the quality and safety of services provided, and recommended health centers to share best practices. Reported site visit results to DPH.
- Recommended establishing the Joint Commission, consisting of nine County commissions related to health and other services for families and children, to encourage collaboration among commissions with common interests and responsibilities.

The Commission's objectives for the coming period are to:

- Continue to conduct site visits of public health centers to assess the quality and safety of services provided.
- Evaluate and advise on the timeliness of distributing and administering certain vaccines to the public.
- Work with the Mental Health Commission to understand and advise on public health issues in the County jails.
- Advise the DPH how to improve responses to public health issues, based on a review of DPH's responses to the H1N1 (swine flu).

- Continue to monitor the progress of sewage spill reporting and public notification.
- Advise the Board on the negative impact of possible reductions to DPH's budget, such as potential delays in investigating diseases and increased disease transmissions.
- Continue to participate on the Joint Commission, collaborating with commissions with common interests and responsibilities, to improve health and other services for families and children.

Please call me if you have any questions, or your staff may contact Jim Schneiderman at (213) 253-0101.

WLW:MMO:JLS:TK

Attachments

c: Sarita A. Mohanty, Chair, Public Health Commission
Robin A. Guerrero, Chief, Board Operations
Angie Montes, Acting Chief, Commission Services

COMMISSION SUNSET REVIEW
LOS ANGELES COUNTY PUBLIC HEALTH COMMISSION
REVIEW COMMENTS

Mission. (Does the mission statement agree with the Board of Supervisors' purpose and expectations?)

The stated mission is as set forth in the Board order establishing the Commission. **CONCUR.**

Section 1. Relevance. (Is the mission still relevant and in agreement with the Board of Supervisors' purpose and expectations?)

The Commission studies, advises and makes recommendations to the Board and to the Director of Public Health on matters related to public health.

The Commission's mission appears to be **RELEVANT.**

Section 2. Meetings and Attendance. (Are required meetings held and is attendance satisfactory?)

The Commission meets twice each month. From April 2007 to December 2009, the Commission met 44 times with an average attendance of 3.5 (70%) members.

The Commission's meeting frequency and attendance is **SATISFACTORY.**

Sections 3 and 4. Accomplishments and Results. (Are listed accomplishments and results significant?)

During the evaluation period, the Commission's accomplishments included the following:

- Participated on the Trans-Fat Commission to advise the public about the health dangers of foods high in trans-fat. As a result, the Department of Public Health (DPH) created the Voluntary Artificial Trans-Fat Reduction Program to recognize eateries committed to providing healthier dining choices.
- Advised the DPH on its proposed sewage spill educational program, contributing to dramatic improvements in sewage spill reporting and public notification.

- Assisted the DPH Director in communicating to the Chief Executive Office (CEO) the negative impact of transferring the Alcohol and Drug Programs Administration (ADPA) to the Department of Mental Health. The CEO recommended to the Board that the ADPA remain with DPH.
- Conducted site visits of public health centers to assess the quality and safety of services provided, and recommended health centers share best practices. Reported site visit results to DPH.
- Recommended establishing the Joint Commission, consisting of nine County commissions related to health and other services for families and children, to encourage collaboration among commissions with common interests and responsibilities.

The Commission's accomplishments and results are **SIGNIFICANT**.

Section 5. Objectives. (Are the objectives compatible with the mission and goals and relevant within the current County environment?)

The Commission's objectives for the coming period are to:

- Continue to conduct site visits of public health centers to assess the quality and safety of services provided.
- Evaluate and advise on the timeliness of distributing certain vaccines to the public.
- Work with the Mental Health Commission to understand and advise on public health issues in the County jails.
- Advise the DPH on how to improve responses to public health issues, based on a review of DPH's responses to the H1N1 (swine flu).
- Continue to monitor the progress of sewage spill reporting and public notification.
- Advise the Board on the negative impact of possible reductions to DPH's budget, such as potential delays in investigating diseases and increased disease transmissions.
- Continue to participate on the Joint Commission, collaborating with commissions with common interests and responsibilities, to improve health and other services for families and children.

The Commission's future objectives appear **RELEVANT**.

Section 6. Resources. (Are the resources utilized by the entity in support of the entity's activities warranted in terms of the accomplishments and results?)

Commission members receive a \$25 stipend for each meeting attended, not to exceed two meetings per month. In addition, Commissioners receive reimbursement for Commission-related travel expenses, such as transportation, meals and lodging. The DPH indicated Commission expenditures totaled approximately \$121,500 in staff support, parking fees, and stipends for fiscal year 2008-09.

The Commission's expenses appear to be **WARRANTED**.

Section 7. Recommendation.

**EXTEND THE SUNSET REVIEW DATE FOR THE LOS ANGELES COUNTY
PUBLIC HEALTH COMMISSION TO DECEMBER 1, 2014.**

Los Angeles County Public Health Commission Attendance Record

| Commissioner | Nominated by: | 6/30/07 | 9/30/07 | 12/31/07 | 3/31/08 | 6/30/08 | 9/30/08 | 12/31/08 | 3/31/09 | 6/30/09 | 9/30/09 | 12/31/2009 (1) | Totals | % Attended |
|---------------------------------------|---------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|----------|----------------|------------|------------|
| Number of Meetings per Quarter | | 5 | 5 | 4 | 5 | 5 | 5 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 3 | 0 | 44 | |
| Sarita A. Mohanty, M.D., M.P.H. | 1st District | 4 | 4 | 2 | 4 | 2 | 4 | 2 | 3 | 3 | 2 | 0 | 30 | 68% |
| Lawrence D. Roberts, M.P.A. | 2nd District | 4 | 4 | 4 | 3 | 5 | 3 | 2 | 3 | | | | 28 | 80% (2) |
| Vacant | 2nd District | | | | | | | | | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0% |
| Lester Breslow, M.D., M.P.H. | 3rd District | 5 | 4 | 4 | 4 | 3 | 3 | 2 | 4 | 5 | 1 | 0 | 35 | 80% |
| Michelle Anne Bholat, M.D., M.P.H. | 4th District | 3 | 4 | 4 | 5 | 3 | 5 | 3 | 3 | 4 | 3 | 0 | 37 | 84% |
| Waleed W. Shindy, M.D., M.P.H. | 5th District | 0 | 2 | 1 | 5 | 1 | 4 | 2 | 3 | 5 | 2 | 0 | 25 | 63% (3) |
| Totals | | 16 | 18 | 15 | 21 | 14 | 19 | 11 | 16 | 17 | 8 | 0 | 155 | |
| Average Attendance per Meeting | | | | | | | | | | | | | 3.5 | |

Legend:

■ Vacancy filled or Commissioner not appointed.

(1) The Public Health Commission and the Department of Public Health agreed to defer all in-person Public Health Commission meetings during the last calendar quarter of 2009 due to H1N1 response activities.

(2) Commissioner resigned after the Commission held three of four meetings for the quarter ended March 2009. Percentage based on number of meetings Commissioner was active on Commission.

(3) Commissioner appointed after the Commission held four of five meetings for the quarter ended June 2007. Percentage based on number of meetings Commissioner was active on Commission.